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In the early 1900’s Europe was dealing with some tough times. Many people argue the main reason for the cause of World War 1, but in my opinion the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the main spark of the war. Soon to hold the throne of Austro-Hungarian, Ferdinand was assassinated while riding in a car with his wife, Sophie Chotek. With the assassination of Ferdinand Austro-Hungarian declared war on Serbia. Germany backed Austro-Hungarian, which caused everyone to back up everyone.

Franz Ferdinand wasn’t the first person in line to receive the throne of Austro-Hungarian. Ferdinand’s cousin, Crown Prince Rudolf was first in line to heir the throne. His cousin although committed suicide at his hunting cabin leaving Ferdinand’s father next in line. His father declined the offer due to his nephew’s death. This left Ferdinand next in line for the throne, which he obviously took the throne.

The assassination took place June 28th, 1914 in Sarajevo, the capital of Austro-Hungarian. Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie Chotek were invited by the governer to attend an opening of a new hospital in Sarajevo. The driver of Ferdinand’s motorcade took a wrong turn making him back up in the middle of the street. While backing up a young member of a Serbian secret military society known as the “Black Hand.” The young man was Gavrillo Princip, 19 at the time Princip was the one responsible for killing Ferdinand and his wife. Before the assassination took place a grenade had been thrown at Ferdinand’s motorcade. The grenade was deflected and detonated for behind the motorcade. Insisting to on their way to the hospital is when the driver made the wrong turn triggering these turn of events. Sophie died at the scene due to internal bleeding, while Ferdinand died on his way to the hospital. With the future Archduke assassinated this gave Austro-Hungarian a reason to start war with Serbia. Germany backed Austro-Hungarian with then caused the complex alliance.

Along with militarism, nationalism, imperalism, and the arms race are all possible reasons of the start of World War 1. If the driver wouldn’t of made the wrong turn, if the bullet hit a inch to the left of right, or if Gavrillo Princip decided not to pull the trigger who knows where Europe would be today.